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CANADA AND THE WAR

Government
Publications

Proceedings on the Occasion of

AN ADDRESS

by

Rt. Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING, M.P.

Prime Minister of Canada

to

The Members of Both Houses of

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Addresses by

The Right Honourable WINSTON CHURCHILL, C.H., M.P.

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

The Right Honourable W. L. MACKENZIE KING, M.P.

Prime Minister of Canada

The Right Honourable VISCOUNT SIMON, G.C.S.I., G.C.V.O.

Lord Chancellor of the United Kingdom

The Right Honourable CLIFTON BROWN, M.P.

Speaker of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom

WESTMINSTER, LONDON, ENGLAND

MAY 11, 1944

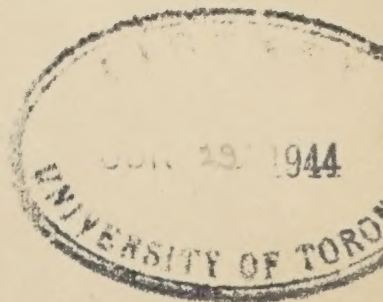


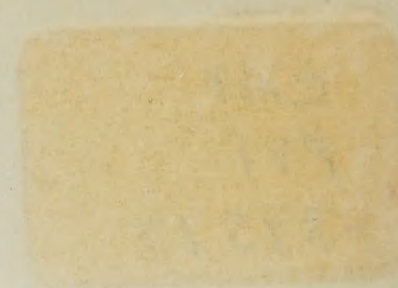

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1944





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TO THE

MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF THE PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

WESTMINSTER, LONDON, ENGLAND

May 11, 1944

Introduction by Right Honourable Winston Churchill Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

My Lord Chancellor, Mr. Speaker of the House of Commons,
My Lords, ladies and gentlemen:

We are met here to-day to give a hearty welcome to Mr. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada. We have known him a long time, and the longer we have known him the more we have loved him. He comes here from Canada to attend our gathering of Empire leaders; he comes here as one who has played an unrivalled part in the forward march of Canada.

Like most of us here, he is a party politician. Well, there is nothing to be ashamed of in that! But I say without hesitation that there was no other man, and perhaps there was no other career which any man could have followed, which would have enabled our honoured guest of this afternoon to lead Canada united into the heart of this world-shaking struggle.

He has brought Canada to the greatest development of her power. It is extraordinary to think what Canada has done in this war. The unending crash of events, one scene of drama succeeding and overlapping another, the intense absorption of people of every age, sect and class in the war effort, hardly enabling them to draw breath—all this makes us incapable of appreciating a tithe of what is going on, what has been going on in Canada, under its Government headed by one who has been twenty-five years the leader of a party and eighteen years Prime Minister of the Dominion. With all that is being done there, we may well ask to be excused if we have not followed it all in the detail it deserves.

Canada, with her eleven million people, has guarded the heart and citadel of the Empire during the most perilous months in its history. There was a time when the Canadian Corps stood as our principal method of defence between the enemy's gathering invasion hordes and this vast City of London. And Canadians have become a naval people. They have gone to sea. Not only do they build ships, both of peace and war, but they man them, and fight them, and have contributed in a notable degree to the destruction of the U-boat menace.

As for the air, Canada is the home of the British Empire and Commonwealth in central organization. Her geographical and other conditions have facilitated this, and from the fields of Canada have come a race of airmen who have not only gathered unsurpassed honour, but will continue to be an asset for the greater unity which underlies all written or legal constitutions for the British Empire.

My friend, Mr. Mackenzie King, I have known for well over forty years, first in politics and then in personal friendship, and I know well the many steps he has always taken throughout that period leading up to this great climax of the development and demonstration of the power of Canada. Canada has a future which none can measure. The representative of this magnificent people will give us to-day a conception not only of the general participation of Canada in the Empire, but of the particular character of her contribution which, in our vast and varied organization, is always to be welcomed.

Canada is the link which joins together the old world and the new; which links the vast American people with whom, I trust, we shall ourselves develop a fraternal association. Canada, bound by sacred ties to the Mother Country, and also by terms of the deepest intimacy and friendship to the United States, clamps the whole structure of this benignant, unfearing, glorious British Empire together into one homogeneous mass which, when crisis comes for the world as a whole, will never fail in its duty.

I call upon Mr. Mackenzie King.

**Address by Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King
Prime Minister of Canada**

Prime Minister, Lord Chancellor, Mr. Speaker, My Lords and Members of the House of Commons:

When I received from you, Prime Minister, the invitation to address members of both Houses of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, I found myself at a loss for words in which to acknowledge so high an honour. Your kindness in presiding on this occasion, your words of introduction, the traditions and associations of Westminster, and the presence in such numbers of the Lords and Commons add greatly to my sense of obligation.

I am only too well aware of all that it means to be the guest of the people of Britain, and to be speaking to them, and to others, from the heart of the British Commonwealth and Empire, at this moment of supreme crisis in human affairs. Your friendship and mine over many years of peace, and our close companionship throughout the years of war, to which you have made so kind a reference, afford me a support I greatly welcome in addressing this distinguished assembly.

As to my part in Canada's entry into the war, it was but the discharge of the responsibility which was mine to give expression, in a decisive hour, to the will and spirit of the Canadian people, and to serve their highest interests.

Four years have now passed since you, Prime Minister, accepted the leadership of the people of Britain and the leadership of the cause of human freedom. You and your colleagues have led this country, and the cause for which it stands, from the dark days of extreme peril, to this hour when at last the light is beginning to break. It is a source of confidence throughout the free world that you are continuing your leadership with a vision and a courage which have already become a legend.

I recognize that, for me, this occasion is designed as a welcome to Canada's representative at the meeting of Prime Ministers of the British Commonwealth. For the high compliment being paid Canada to-day, I should like to express my gratitude and pride.

I know that the welcome you accord to me is equally heartfelt and generous towards the representatives of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. I should like to say to Mr. Curtin, Mr. Fraser and Field Marshal Smuts how great is the admiration of the people of Canada of their leadership, and of the heroic part which their countries have taken in this war. I should also like to say to them how glad I am that our presence in London at this time affords to us all not only exceptional opportunities of conference with the Prime Minister of Britain and his colleagues, but of making clear to the world the oneness of the nations of the Commonwealth in the winning of the war and in seeking international co-operation after the war.

Greetings from Canada

Perhaps I may be allowed to convey a special message from the people of Canada to the people of Britain.

No memory of happiness in the past is more cherished than the recollection of the visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen. In Canada, as in Britain, the years of war have heightened the admiration and increased the affection felt by men and women everywhere for our King and Queen. We have been inspired by their courage and devotion in sharing the dangers and sorrows of the people. In all the nations of the Commonwealth, their example has deepened the meaning and significance of our common allegiance to the Crown.

The heroic endurance of the people of Britain is ever present in our minds. We shall never forget your resolution in the darkest days of the war. Nor shall we ever cease to remember the determination with which, amid destruction of your homes and in peril of your lives, you, the men, women and children of Britain, have continued to carry on your work and to maintain your confidence in the future. Clearly the maintenance of human freedom has

depended upon the preservation of the freedom of Britain. It is our greatest pride, as it is the greatest pride of other British nations represented here, that when, for so long a time, you alone bore the brunt of the attack, we stood with you in arms against the might of Nazi Germany. The free nations of the world can never forget that it was the indomitable resistance of the people of Britain that bought the precious time for the mobilization of the forces of freedom around the globe.

The Strength of Britain

Britain has also been an example to the world of the organization of a free people for a common task. You have astonished the world by the marvels of your industrial production and by the skill and efficiency of your workers. You have never lost your faith. A new energy, a new confidence have been generated in your people. These will endure. And your faith, tested and tried in the fires of affliction, will be firmer and stronger than it has ever been.

When victory is won, you will still possess the same initiative, vigour and endurance; the same skills of hand and brain; the same qualities of mind and spirit. These have enabled the people of Britain to make a contribution to the winning of the war which, man for man, no other nation has surpassed. In peace as in war, these qualities will remain. In the building of a better world after the war Britain will be able, by the force of her example, to give the same leadership that she has given in the waging of war.

The Spirit Underlying Canada's War Effort

It is, however, not of Britain but of Canada that I am expected to speak on this occasion. I should like, therefore, if I may, to speak to you particularly of the spirit of Canada, as exemplified in Canada's war effort. I do this with less embarrassment as a like spirit, I know, animates the war efforts of all the nations united in a common allegiance to the Crown. I should like to speak, as well, of what that spirit signifies for the future of the British Commonwealth and of its relation with other nations in the building of a new world order.

In speaking of Canada's war effort it is not my intention to describe our contributions to the present world conflict primarily in terms of men and materials. What I should like to refer to are certain aspects which, viewed collectively, reveal the spirit of the Canadian people.

A Voluntary Effort

I place first the aspect I regard as most significant. Canada's war effort is a voluntary effort. It is the free expression of a free people. Like the other nations of the Commonwealth at war to-day, we entered the war of our own free will; and not as the result of any formal obligation. Ours was not primarily a response to a call of blood or race. It was the outcome of our deepest political instinct—a love of freedom and a sense of justice.

As our decision was a voluntary decision, so the effort of our people in carrying on the war has been a voluntary effort. In Canada, as in other countries, controls and restrictions have been imposed in order to prosecute the war with vigour and efficiency. But at every stage these measures have received the overwhelming support of the Canadian people.

Canada's population numbers eleven and a half millions. Three-quarters of a million of our finest young men are serving in the armed forces. This military demand on our manpower resources has not prevented our country from doubling its pre-war production. Thanks to the skill and devotion of our men and women, Canada is a granary, an arsenal, an aerodrome, and a shipyard of freedom. Our country has become increasingly proud of the fact that every fighting man from Canada serving across the seas, on the seas and in the air is a volunteer. We can say, in very truth, that our effort in this war is a voluntary effort.

An Immediate Effort

Canada's decision to enter the war was an immediate decision. When, in 1939, the last hopes of peace were fading from the world, I announced that, if Britain took up arms in the defence of freedom, our government would ask Parliament to place Canada at Britain's side. When war came, there was no hesitation. As soon as Parliament could act, Canada was at war.

In those days few if any of our people believed our country stood in immediate danger of attack. What we sensed immediately was the issue. We saw that a bitter struggle had begun between freedom and domination and that the conflict would certainly spread. For the second time in a generation Canada went to war to help prevent tyranny in Germany from extending its domination to other parts of the globe.

When the last war ended the people of Canada, like other freedom-loving peoples, hoped and believed that peace and freedom had been assured to mankind for generations. In our National War Memorial, that hope and that faith were symbolized by inseparably joined figures of peace and freedom. But all our history, all our political experience told us that freedom in Canada could not survive in a world that was no longer free.

An All-out Effort

From the beginning, our war effort was so planned and organized that we might reach, as rapidly as possible, the maximum effort our people could sustain during a long war.

We expanded our Navy as fast as we could build or acquire the ships and train the men. We expanded our Army to the highest strength we believed we could maintain in a long war. We expanded our Air Force to the limit of our capacity to secure the needed equipment and to train personnel.

The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan was expedited and expanded beyond all anticipations. The one hundred thousandth fighting airman has just completed his training. The co-operative training in Canada has vastly increased the joint strength in the air of the United Nations.

We have expanded our war industries far beyond the needs of our own armed forces. Despite the withdrawal of hundreds of thousands of men from the farms, the fisheries, the mines and the forests, we have greatly enlarged our production of foodstuffs and raw materials. We are devoting about half our total production directly to the waging of war. We are paying about half the financial

cost of our war effort out of current revenue from taxation. Through victory loans and war savings, nearly every family is helping to finance the war.

In fighting men, in weapons and munitions, in food and in finance, we are seeking as a people to make our utmost contribution to the fight for world freedom. Our objective has been a total effort for total war, and we believe that objective is being attained.

A Pioneering Effort

Of the nations of the western hemisphere, Canada was the first to defend in arms the frontiers of the freedom of the new world. For more than two years our country, alone in the Americas, was at war. In more ways than one our effort has been a pioneering effort.

A Co-operative Effort

Canada's contribution to the present war has been the greater because we live side by side with the United States. Without the harmony and reciprocity which exist between our two countries neither could have achieved so much in the common cause. The ability of both Canada and the United States to defend the North American continent and to fight abroad, has been greatly increased by our arrangements for joint defence and by the pooling of resources.

We have sought to make our war effort, wherever possible, a co-operative effort. The extensive military works undertaken in Canada in conjunction with the United States have provided a remarkable instance of close and friendly co-operation. Ours is surely the supreme example of a smaller nation living in the fullest security and harmony side by side with a very powerful one.

As a part of our war policy, Canada is sharing, with other of the United Nations, ships, machines, weapons and other supplies which, as I have said, we are producing far in excess of the needs of our own armed forces. Since the war began we have supplied to Britain, and to Britain's armed forces, war materials and other supplies worth nearly nine hundred million pounds (\$4,000,000,000). Almost half of these supplies represent an outright contribution. Under our system of mutual aid, war materials have, for the past year, been

supplied without payment to the United Nations, in accordance with strategic need. Canada is now supplying mutual aid to Britain, Australia, the Soviet Union, China and the French Committee of National Liberation.

A World-wide Effort

As the war has progressed, our effort has become more and more a world-wide effort. Canadian-made machines and munitions of war have been used on all the fighting fronts. Canadian sailors and merchant seamen have served on all oceans. Our airmen have fought in the battle of the skies around the globe. From the early days of the war our soldiers have helped to guard this island. They have seen active service in the Pacific area, as well as at Dieppe, and in the Italian campaign. To-day our army awaits the word of command to join with their comrades in the liberation of Europe. The morrow will witness Canadian forces taking part in a final assault upon Japan. Canada's effort has truly become a world-wide effort.

An Enduring Effort

I need scarcely say that we are in this war to the end. Canada's fight for freedom will be a fight to the finish. It is clear to our people that this war is all one war: a monstrous conspiracy of the fascist powers to dominate and enslave the world. Having taken up arms of their own free will, the Canadian people will not relax until freedom is secure. Canada's effort will be an enduring effort.

A Long-range Effort

We have also sought to look beyond the war; to make our effort a long-range effort. The Canadian people, no less than the people of Britain, whose sacrifices have been so great, need the promise of a brighter future. To sustain us in our endeavours, we all need the vision of a new world order.

By co-ordinated action, by mutual aid, by continuous co-operation, the United Nations are achieving military victory. The widest measure of co-operation will be no less needed in the making and keeping of peace. While our primary aim, like yours, is military victory, our ultimate aim, like yours, is a better future for mankind.

A National Effort

Above all, our war effort must be viewed as a national effort. Our decision in 1939 was more than the free choice of a free parliament. It was the most solemn act of a free nation. Our war effort appeals to our national pride. We have sought to make it worthy of Canada.

Identity of Effort Throughout the Commonwealth

I have spoken of the war effort of Canada. May I hasten to say again that a like spirit has animated the war efforts of each of the other nations of the Commonwealth. With due allowance for varying conditions, the several aspects of Canada's war effort have been paralleled in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. When war came four nations, all of them thousands of miles from the scene of the conflict, ranged themselves at the side of Britain. To each the issue was plain; from each the response was immediate. Each is seeking to put forth the utmost effort. The contributions of all bear the imprint of the initiative and self-reliance of the pioneer. Co-operation has marked their course throughout. Each is making a long-range effort which will prove to be an enduring effort. It is the pride of each that its war effort has been a national effort.

The Spirit of Freedom

Nor have we far to seek to discover the cause of this identity of effort. The spirit of a nation is not readily defined. It is known only as it is revealed. It resembles the flow of waters hidden beneath the earth's surface. From time to time and from place to place the waters having their origin in some secret source reveal themselves as springs, or streams, or rivers. So also, from time to time, a nation's spirit wells up from its source and manifests itself in the collective acts of a people. Such collective action is quickened and heightened at a time of war.

The war efforts of the nations of the Commonwealth owe their inspiration to a common source. That source is the love of freedom and the sense of justice which, through generations, have been nurtured and cherished in Britain as nowhere else in the world.

The terrible events of 1940 revealed how great was the menace to freedom and how suddenly freedom might be lost. So long as freedom endures, free men everywhere will owe to the people of Britain a debt they can never repay. So long as Britain continues to maintain the spirit of freedom and to defend the freedom of other nations, she need never doubt her own preeminence throughout the world. So long as we all share that spirit, we need never fear for the strength or unity of the Commonwealth. The voluntary decisions by Britain, by Canada, by Australia, by New Zealand, and by South Africa are a supreme evidence of the unifying force of freedom.

The Strength and Unity of the British Commonwealth

This common effort springing from a common source has given a new strength and unity, a new meaning and significance to the British Commonwealth and Empire.

Without attempting to distinguish between the terms "British Empire" and "British Commonwealth", but looking rather to the evolution of this association of free nations, may I give to you what I believe to be the secret of its strength and of its unity, and the vision which I cherish of its future. "We . . . who look forward to larger brotherhoods and more exact standards of social justice, value and cherish the British Empire because it represents, more than any other similar organization has ever represented, the peaceful co-operation of all sorts of men in all sorts of countries, and because we think it is, in that respect at least, a model of what we hope the whole world will some day become."

This vision, I need scarcely say, is not mine alone; indeed, the words in which I have sought to portray it are not even my own. They were spoken thirty-seven years ago by one whose fame to-day is not surpassed in any part of the world if, indeed, it has been equalled at any time in the world's history. They are the words of the present Prime Minister of Britain, uttered by Mr. Churchill in 1907. As they continue to reverberate down the years, they bring fresh inspiration to all who owe allegiance to the Crown and increasing hope to mankind.

Visions of youth, sometimes, "die away,
And fade into the light of common day."

They fade not because the vision is ever wholly lost, but because resolution wavers, because determination fails, because of seemingly insuperable obstacles. It has not been so with Mr. Churchill. He has not to ask

"Whither is fled the visionary gleam?

Where is it now, the glory and the dream?"

The glory and the dream—are they not being realized, at this very hour, in the strength and unity of the nations of the Commonwealth?

Means of Consultation and Co-operation

From time to time it is suggested that we should seek new methods of communication and consultation.

I believe very strongly in close consultation, close co-operation, and effective co-ordination of policies. What more effective means of co-operation could have been found than those which, despite all the handicaps of war, have worked with such complete success?

It is true we have not, sitting in London continuously, a visible Imperial War Cabinet or Council. But we have, what is much more important, though invisible, a continuing conference of the Cabinets of the Commonwealth. It is a conference of Cabinets which deals, from day to day and, not infrequently, from hour to hour, with policies of common concern.

When decisions are taken they are not the decisions of Prime Ministers or other individual Ministers, meeting apart from their own colleagues and away from their own countries. They are decisions reached after mature consideration by all members of the Cabinet of each country, with a full consciousness of their immediate responsibility to their respective Parliaments.

Let us, by all means, seek to improve where we can. But in considering new methods of organization we cannot be too careful to see that, to our own peoples, the new methods will not appear as an attempt to limit their freedom of decision or, to peoples outside

the Commonwealth, as an attempt to establish a separate bloc. Let us beware lest in changing the form we lose the substance; or, for appearance's sake, sacrifice reality. I am told that, somewhere, over the grave of one who did not know when he was well off, there is the following epitaph: "I was well; I wanted to be better; and here I am."

The Hope of the Future

In the passage I quoted from Mr. Churchill a moment ago I gave only a part of what he said. He set forth, as well, the means of realizing his vision of peaceful co-operation. "Let us," he said, ". . . seek to impress, year after year, upon the British Empire, an *inclusive* and not an *exclusive* character."

Like the nations of which it is composed, the British Commonwealth has within itself a spirit which is not exclusive, but the opposite of exclusive. Therein lies its strength. That spirit expresses itself in co-operation. Therein lies the secret of its unity. Co-operation is capable of indefinite expansion. Therein lies the hope of the future.

Commonwealth and World Co-operation

It is of the utmost importance to the Commonwealth that there should continue to be the greatest possible co-operation among its members. In like manner it is, I believe, of the utmost importance to the future of mankind that, after the war, there should be the greatest possible co-operation among the nations of the world.

Our wartime co-operation is not the product of formal institutional unity; it is the result of agreement upon policies of benefit to all. Moreover, they are policies that make an appeal "to all sorts of men in all sorts of countries," provided only they are men of good will.

If, at the close of hostilities, the strength and unity of the Commonwealth are to be maintained, those ends will be achieved not by policies which are exclusive, but by policies which can be shared with other nations. I am firmly convinced that the way to maintain our unity is to base that unity upon principles which can be extended to all nations. I am equally sure that the only way to maintain world unity is to base it upon principles that can be universally applied.

The war has surely convinced all nations, from the smallest to the greatest, that there is no national security to be found in the isolation of any nation or group of nations. The future security of peace-loving nations will depend upon the extent and effectiveness of international co-operation.

It is no less true that it is not the great powers only that are needed to defend, to preserve, and to extend freedom. We should be false to the freedom for which we are fighting if, at any time, we failed to remember that no nation liveth unto itself; and that nations, great and small, are members one of another.

Prosperity like Security, Indivisible

It is not merely the security of nations that is indivisible. Their prosperity also is indivisible. Few would wish to return to the years before the war, when almost every nation sought economic security in economic isolation from its neighbours. What happened was that the economic security of all nations was destroyed. Now is surely the time for the whole world to realize that, just as no nation of itself can ensure its own safety, so no nation or group of nations can in isolation ensure its own prosperity.

For my part, I profoundly believe that both the security and the welfare of the nations of the British Commonwealth and, in large measure, the security and welfare of all peace-loving nations will depend on the capacity of the nations of the Commonwealth to give leadership in the pursuit of policies which, in character, are not exclusive but inclusive. How far such policies can be successfully pursued will, of course, depend on the extent to which other nations are prepared to pursue similar policies. But let us, at least, wherever that is possible, give the lead that is in the interests of the world as a whole.

Canada and the United States

You, Prime Minister, have referred to the importance of strengthening the fraternal association that now exists between the British Commonwealth and the United States.

Over many years Canada's relations with the United States have been especially friendly. Throughout the war, we have followed the

path of co-operation. We like to think that our country has had some part in bringing about a harmony of sentiment between the United States and the whole British Commonwealth. That harmony is the foundation of the close military collaboration which is proving so fruitful in this war.

It will ever be a prime object of Canadian policy to work for the maintenance of the fraternal association of the British and American peoples. When peace comes it is our highest hope that the peoples of the British Commonwealth and the United States will continue to march at each other's side, united more closely than ever. But we equally hope that they will march in a larger company, in which all the nations united to-day in defence of freedom will remain united in the service of mankind.

The Supreme Crisis

We are approaching, in the European theatre, the supreme crisis of this long and terrible struggle. In this fateful hour it is imperative that everything be done to maintain single-minded concentration on the achievement of victory. That is our first obligation. It is our duty to the humble people in all the Allied countries whose patient endurance, unremitting toil and ready acceptance of the burdens of war have made possible the immense strength in war materials and supplies of the United Nations. It is our duty, above all, to the millions of fighting men who, with their lives, are defending our freedom and the freedom of mankind.

The assurance of unfailing support to our sailors, soldiers and airmen is the supreme objective of the present meetings of Prime Ministers. We have met here, first and foremost, in order to do everything possible, by co-operation and by united action, to assure that support in largest possible measure on all the fighting fronts.

The present war is different from any war in the past. It is different in scale. In any accurate geographical sense, it is the first world war in history. It is a war that is being fought not only on land and at sea but also in the clouds, miles above the surface of the earth. It is, moreover, a war that is not confined to the material realm. It is a struggle for the control of men's minds and men's souls. Its outcome will shape the moral destiny of the world.

The support of our fighting men and our debt to all who are near and dear to them must extend beyond the theatres of war. It must look beyond the end of hostilities. We owe it to all who bear the heat of the strife; we owe it to those who are crippled and maimed; we owe it to the many homes that are bereaved; we owe it to the memory of those who give their lives; to do all in our power to ensure that their service and their sacrifice shall not have been in vain.

A More Abundant Life

In the past, the sacrifice of human life in war has been commemorated in monuments of stone or bronze. After this war we must create a more fitting memorial. That, I believe, will be found only in securing for others the opportunities of a more abundant life. Already we of the British Commonwealth and Empire are a community of many nations, of many races and of many tongues. Already we have advanced far in the art of responsible government, in the practice of international co-operation, and in the application of the principle of mutual aid. Surely it is ours to help fashion a new world order in which social security and human welfare will become a part of the inheritance of mankind.

The war has been none of our making. We sought, above all else, the promotion of peace, of understanding and of good-will. We deplored the extension of war to all parts of the world. Yet in the perspective of Time this world-encircling danger may prove to have been a blessing in disguise. Only in this way, perhaps, could other nations as well as our own, have come to see that the interests of Mankind are one and that the claims of Humanity are supreme.

Our first duty is to win the war. But to win the war, we must keep the vision of a better future. We must never cease to strive for its fulfilment. No lesser vision will suffice to gain the victory over those who seek world domination and human enslavement. No lesser vision will enable us fittingly to honour the memory of the men and women who are giving their all for freedom and justice.

In the realization of this vision, the governments and peoples who owe a common allegiance to the Crown may well find the new

meaning and significance of the British Commonwealth and Empire. It is for us to make of our association of free British nations "a model of what we hope the whole world will some day become."

Mr. Churchill:

My Lords and gentlemen, I call upon the Lord Chancellor to propose a vote of thanks to our honoured guest.

The Lord Chancellor (Right Hon. Viscount Simon):

My Lords and Members of the House of Commons:

Mr. Speaker and I have been asked to express in a few sentences the gratitude which we both feel to the Prime Minister of Canada for his presence and speech. The demonstration which followed the close of his address shows that, indeed, no long argument is needed. We are very grateful to Mr. Mackenzie King for saying, with so much eloquence and vigour, many wise and stimulating and hopeful things. I think we are especially grateful to him for the account which he gave—the brilliant account which he gave—both of the spirit of Canada and of the truly stupendous contribution which that Dominion is making to the common effort. I think Mr. Speaker will join with me if I venture to say to Mr. Mackenzie King, on behalf of this great company, that we do most sincerely express our admiration for all the efforts which this great Dominion is making, and we rejoice to think that we have amongst us the leader of that great people.

It wasn't so many years ago that, when any of us brought visitors into this part of the Palace of Westminster, we were considerably puzzled how to reply to the question, "What is this room for?" The most hopeful answer, I think, was that this large and splendid hall was built in order to find room for two quite enormous pictures which otherwise couldn't be accommodated. That was an injustice to the architect who designed this great hall one hundred years ago. He must have anticipated what would happen. For, thanks now to the way in which Mr. Mackenzie King can leave his country one evening and arrive here the next morning, and other astonishing excursions by other Dominion Premiers, this great hall, lying as it were between

the House of Commons and the House of Lords, has become on great occasions such as these a piece of common ground where Members of the two Houses may safely meet and where they can listen to an address without any breach of the ancient and precisely preserved privileges of either Chamber.

We are greatly rejoiced that Mr. Mackenzie King has now been added to the list of those who have thus addressed us. And with all our hearts we thank him for his speech, and wish to express to him in the warmest terms our feeling that that speech and the spirit behind it are all contributing to the unity and the comradeship of the British Empire, which is the surest guarantee of ultimate victory and the best hope of a peaceful world in the future.

Mr. Churchill:

My Lords and gentlemen: It has been my experience over a great many years to await the call of Mr. Speaker, and I am now fully conscious that the tables are turned, and I mean to avail myself of this advantage to the full.

Mr. Speaker (Col. the Right Hon. D. Clifton Brown):

On this occasion, although it may be slightly out of order, I am pleased indeed to obey the call of the Prime Minister.

Now I second this vote of thanks to Mr. Mackenzie King with great warmth indeed. I am only going to utter two sentences to you. In one I want to echo the warm appreciation we have of all that our fellow Britishers have done in the Dominion of Canada, under the leadership of Mr. Mackenzie King. We stand lost in admiration of the effort which they have put forward in this war. That's my first sentence. My second is this: That I believe Canada is building up something even greater than action in this war. I speak now, if I may, for Members of the House of Commons, and I believe for the Members of the House of Lords too,—we are lost in admiration, it has struck our imagination, the Air Training scheme which Canada has set up. Therein you have the cream of all young men, not merely from Canada but from all the rest of the Dominions and from the free nations of the world, meeting together, training

together, forming bonds and links which I think the Prime Minister of New Zealand described the other day as "invisible, yet stronger than steel." Those, I believe, are the links which are going to bind our Empire together in the future—of incalculable strength and incalculable value to the British Empire.

For all that work the Canadians and Mr. Mackenzie King are doing on our behalf, I thank him most warmly and for the speech which he has given to us, which I beg to second.

Mr. Churchill:

All in favour of the vote of thanks to Mr. Mackenzie King, say Aye.

Aye!

Mr. Mackenzie King:

Lord Chancellor, Mr. Speaker:

I thank you warmly for the exceedingly kind words which you have just spoken. May I thank you again, Prime Minister, for words that touched my heart very deeply, and which I believe will meet with warm response in the heart of Canada.

I again thank the Members of the House of Lords and the Members of the House of Commons for their great courtesy in being present this afternoon in such numbers. May I thank you especially for the "Aye" which I heard when the Prime Minister put the resolution to this gathering. "Ayes" are always pleasant to the ears of Government.

